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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Letter dated 9 January 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to the dangerous situation in the front line due to the continued occupation of the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan by the Republic of Armenia and its intensified ceasefire violations and increased attacks against the civilian population and civilian facilities.

On 3 January 2015, in particular, the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia heavily shelled the defence positions of the Azerbaijani army with the deployment of heavy artillery, anti-tank grenade launchers and 60- and 82-millimetre mortars.

Over the past few days, in addition to the uninterrupted intense attacks on the positions of the Azerbaijani army, the Armenian armed forces launched a massive bombardment of Azerbaijani villages located behind the front line, using large-calibre weapons. Significant damage has been inflicted particularly on the villages of Chyragly and Horta Gervend in the Agdam district. The deliberate targeting and attacking of the civilian population and facilities raise serious concern.

The sole responsibility for the situation and its consequences lies with the Republic of Armenia, the aggressor and occupying State.

Armenia's unconstructiveness in the negotiations, its interest in maintaining the status quo, its refusal to comply with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, its policy of ruthless ethnic cleansing and its latest provocative actions aimed at undermining the peace process — all these provide the strongest grounds to impose substantial sanctions against Armenia by the international community. The continued presence of Armenia's armed forces on the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan remains the biggest threat to regional peace and security.

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To put an end to the decades-long occupation of the significant portion of the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan and sufferings of the Azerbaijani people, the United Nations must ensure the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of Armenia's armed forces from all occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 33 and 38, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative